



Public School Choice Initial Review Team Site Summary

Site Name: Valley Region Elementary School #7 (Julie Korenstein)

Review: 1 of 2

Instructions

Using the guiding principles outlined by Superintendent Cortines, please indicate your recommendation for which applicant(s) should be chosen to operate at this school site. You need not choose any application and you can choose multiple applications.

Applicant Team Recommendation: Local District 2

Rationale:

The plan developed by Local District 2 offered the most comprehensive and complete framework for instruction and intervention based on data. This plan included a deep understanding of the community it is intended to serve and developed a core instructional program to meet the needs of the intended student population. A systematic assessment process was included to drive instruction and intervention.

What made this plan stand out from the rest was its strong focus on literacy, language, and numeracy skills. It described an integrated approach to teaching reading and language across the curriculum. This plan was developed around a Response to Instruction and Intervention Framework and has designed a powerful research-based core instructional program that should meet the needs of the majority of students. It also had a well thought out intervention plan to address the needs of students who do not meet benchmarks.

Finally, this proposal included a well defined plan for engaging the parents and the community by using the Community School model.



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Applicant Team Recommendation: Magnolia Science Elementary & Local District 2

Rationale:

MAGNOLIA SCIENCE ELEMENTARY – THIS APPLICANT WOULD BE MY FIRST CHOICE FOR THIS SITE. APPLICANT HAS SUBMITTED A VERY STRONG, WELL-DEVELOPED PROPOSAL AND HAS A TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOLS IT ALREADY OPERATES. GREATEST CONCERN IS WHETHER APPLICANT CAN NOW EXTEND ITS SUCCESS RECORD TO THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL. NONETHELESS, APPLICANT'S FOCUS ON SCIENCE/MATHEMATICS, ITS EXPERIENCE WITH THE POPULATION TO BE SERVED AT VRES #7 AND ITS FLEXIBILITY AS A CHARTER TO ADJUST TO THE NEEDS OF THE NEW SCHOOL'S ENROLLMENT MAKE IT THE MOST PROMISING CANDIDATE OF THE FIVE ENTITIES WHO SUBMITTED PROPOSALS,.

LOCAL DISTRICT 2 - APPLICANT HAS SUBMITTED A STRONG WRITTEN PROPOSAL. THE GREATEST CONCERNS OF THIS REVIEWER ARE APPLICANT'S FAILURE TO DETAIL ITS ACADEMIC TRACK RECORD AT THE FEEDER/NEIGHBORING SCHOOLS IT OVERSEES AND TO DETAIL, AS AN INTERNAL APPLICANT, HOW MUCH AUTONOMY IT WILL ACTUALLY BE GIVEN TO OPERATE VRES #7, INCLUDING PRINCIPAL SELECTION, CONTROL OVER THE SCHOOL'S BUDGET, FLEXIBILITY WITH THE SCHOOL DAY AND SCHOOL CALENDAR, ABILITY TO WORK WITHIN THE UTLA CONTRACT AND STILL ACHIEVE ITS GOALS AND ITS FREEDOM TO PROVIDE ANY NEEDED ADD'L TUTORING AND/OR EXTRACURRICULAR OR ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS. PRESUMABLY THE APPLICANT DOES NOT HAVE THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS OR IT WOULD HAVE ADDRESSED THEM IN THIS OTHERWISE WELL-DEVELOPED PROPOSAL.